

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of assessing the ability of a system to apply straight through processing to securities transactions, the method comprising:

identifying one or more assessment issues, the one or more assessment issues relating to automated processing of securities management functions in the system for processing securities transactions, wherein at least one of the one or more assessment issues relates to the ability of the system to apply straight through processing to securities transactions;

storing, on a computer readable medium, the identified one or more assessment issues in an issue and resolution log;

capturing process and technology performance information relating to a current state of the system for implementing automated processing of securities transactions for the system;

storing, on a computer readable medium, the process and technology performance information;

analyzing the process and technology performance information with respect to the one or more assessment issues based on a future state of the system for implementing automated processing of securities transactions;

capturing information regarding the ability of at least one system external to the system to apply automated straight through processing to securities transactions, wherein the at least one system external to the system may include includes one or more of an industry-wide system, a business partner system, or a vendor system;

formulating at least one recommendation for improving process and technology performance for the system;

storing, on a computer readable medium, the information regarding the abilities of at least one system external to the system to apply straight through processing to securities transactions;

formulating at least one recommendation for improving process and technology performance for the system for applying straight through processing to securities transactions;

prioritizing the at least one recommendation based on the analysis of the technology and performance information; and

developing an implementation plan, wherein the implementation plan includes at least one task associated with the at least one recommendation.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of assessing progress on the at least one task of the implementation plan.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of managing a plurality of activities for assessing the ability of a system to apply straight through processing to securities transactions.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of managing a plurality of activities for assessing the ability of a system to apply straight through processing to securities transactions further includes:

defining at least one project objective and scope;

developing a communications strategy;

creating a work plan;

recording the status of the at least one project at periodic intervals;

updating the issue and resolution log; and

communicating with key sponsors.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the step of identifying one or more assessment issues further comprises:

- creating and updating an interview guide based on a review of the long term business strategy and plan of major business units;
- identifying key executives within the major business units for interview;
- conducting interviews with the key executives to identify assessment issues for straight through processing across the system;
- summarizing the identified assessment issues;
- storing, on a computer readable medium, the identified assessment issues in an issues log;
- developing a future state for the system that implements straight through processing; and
- refining the project scope and work plan in view of information obtained from the interviews conducted with the key executives.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of capturing process and technology performance information for the system further comprises:

- defining one or more business processes in the system, wherein each business process includes at least one business activity;
- capturing aggregate human capital resource information corresponding to the one or more business processes and the at least one business activity included in each business process;
- storing, on a computer readable medium, the aggregate human capital resource information;
- capturing aggregate level automation information corresponding to the one or more business processes and the at least one business activity included in each business process;

storing, on a computer readable medium, the aggregate level automation information;

capturing aggregate volume impact information corresponding to the one or more business processes and the at least one business activity included in each business process;

storing, on a computer readable medium, the aggregate volume impact information;

importing the aggregate human capital resource information and the aggregate level of automation information into a system performance database;

generating from data in the system performance database a human capital resource report, an automation report, a process fragmentation report, and an impact of changing business volume report; and

creating a list of critical issues based on an analysis of the human capital resource, automation, process fragmentation, and impact of changing business volume reports

storing, on a computer readable medium, the list of critical issues.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of analyzing the process and technology performance information with respect to the one or more assessment issues further includes:

identifying business processes and business activities associated with the one or more assessment issues;

assessing for each identified process a current state and a desired state implementing straight through processing; and

assigning a straight through processing impact score and a gap score to each identified process.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of capturing information regarding the ability of at least one system external to the system to apply straight through processing to securities transactions further includes:

identifying business partner systems and vendor systems whose implementation of straight through processing will impact the business processes and business activities of the system; and

assessing the magnitude of the impact on the system of the readiness of the business partner systems and the vendor systems for implementing straight through processing.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of formulating at least one recommendation for improving process and technology performance for the system further comprises:

identifying technology applications associated with the one or more business processes in the system, wherein each business process includes at least one business activity;

storing, on a computer readable medium the identified technology applications, and

assessing the technology applications against a plurality of functional and technical criteria.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of formulating at least one recommendation for improving process and technology performance for the system further comprises:

assessing the ability of the information technology infrastructure of the system to implement straight through processing in the system; and

identifying technology applications or information technology infrastructure solutions of the industry-wide system, vendor systems, and business partner systems that may be used to implement straight through processing in the system

storing, on a computer readable medium the identified technology applications or information technology infrastructure solutions.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of formulating at least one recommendation for improving process and technology performance for the system further comprises:

identifying current information technology infrastructure initiatives that may impact the ability of the system to implement straight through processing

storing, on a computer readable medium, the identified current information technology infrastructure initiatives.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of prioritizing the at least one recommendation further includes:

identifying potential process and technology improvement opportunities;

storing, on a computer readable medium, the identified potential process and technology improvement opportunities;

identifying the business processes affected by the potential process and technology improvement opportunities;

storing, on a computer readable medium, the identified business processes affected by the potential process and technology improvement opportunities; and

assigning a priority to each potential process and technology improvement opportunity, where the priority of each potential process and technology improvement opportunity is influenced by straight through processing impact scores assigned to the business processes affected by the potential process and technology improvement opportunities.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the step of prioritizing the at least one recommendation further includes:

grouping the potential process and technology improvement recommendations into one or more projects;

creating a definition for each project, wherein the project definition includes project scope, project approach, project deliverables, project timing, and project resourcing;

identifying any interdependencies between projects; and

storing, on a computer readable medium, the identified interdependencies between projects.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of prioritizing the at least one recommendation further includes:

developing a business case for each project;

estimating the costs of each project; and

analyzing the costs of each project with respect to the potential benefits of the project.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer assisted diagnostic system for assessing the readiness of a system for adopting a straight through processing trading environment, the system comprising:

an initial form having an activatable command button wherein online user documentation is displayed upon activation, an activatable command button wherein a listing accessing background information documents are presented upon activation, an activatable command button wherein execution of a straight through processing data tool program is initiated upon activation, and an activatable command button wherein the initial form is exited upon activation;

online user documentation accessible through the initial programmable form; one or more background information documents accessible through the initial programmable form;

a straight through processing data tool program comprising plurality of self-contained windows, wherein each self-contained window is associated with one of a plurality of straight through processing readiness assessment steps, wherein a straight through processing step may include one or more substeps, and the plurality of straight through processing readiness assessment steps includes:

identifying one or more assessment issues, the one or more assessment issues relating to automated processing of securities management functions in the system for processing securities transactions;

storing, on a computer readable medium, the identified one or more assessment issues in an issue and resolution log;

capturing process and technology performance information relating to a current state of the system for processing securities transactions for the system;

storing, on a computer readable medium, the process and technology performance information;

analyzing the process and technology performance information with respect to the one or more assessment issues based on a future state of the system for processing securities transactions;

capturing information regarding the ability of at least one system external to the system to apply automated straight through processing to securities transactions, wherein the at least one system external to the system may include includes one or more of an industry-wide system, a business partner system, or a vendor system;

formulating at least one recommendation for improving process and technology performance for the system;

storing, on a computer readable medium, the information regarding the abilities of at least one system external to the system to apply straight through processing to securities transactions;

formulating at least one recommendation for improving process and technology performance for the system for processing securities transactions;

prioritizing the at least one recommendation based on the analysis of the technology and performance information; and

developing an implementation plan, wherein the implementation plan includes at least one task associated with the at least one recommendation.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of assessing progress on the at-least one task of the implementation plan.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of managing a plurality of activities for assessing the ability of a system to apply straight, through processing to securities transactions.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer-assisted diagnostic system of claim 17, wherein the step of managing a plurality of activities for assessing the ability of a system to apply straight through processing to securities transactions further includes:

defining at least one project objective and scope;

developing a communications strategy;

creating a work plan;

recording the status of the at least one project at periodic intervals;

updating the issue and resolution log; and

communicating with key sponsors.

19. (Previously Presented) The computer-assisted diagnostic system of claim 18, wherein the step of identifying one or more assessment issues further comprises:

- creating and updating an interview guide based on a review of the long term business strategy and plan of major business units;
- identifying key executives within the major business units for interview;
- conducting interviews with the key executives to identify assessment issues for straight through processing across the organization;
- summarizing the identified assessment issues;
- storing, on a computer readable medium, the identified assessment issues in an issue and resolution log;
- developing a future state for the system that implements straight through processing; and
- refining the project scope and work plan in view of information obtained from the interviews conducted with the key executives.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer-assisted diagnostic system of claim 19, wherein the step of capturing process and technology performance information for system further comprises:

- defining one or more business processes in the system, wherein each business process includes at least one business activity;
- capturing aggregate human capital resource information corresponding to the one or more business processes and the at least one business activity included in each business process;
- storing, on a computer readable medium, the aggregate human capital resource information;
- capturing aggregate level automation information corresponding to the one or more business processes and the at least one business activity included in each business process;

storing, on a computer readable medium, the aggregate level automation information;

capturing aggregate volume impact information corresponding to the one or more business processes and the at least one business activity included in each business process;

storing, on a computer readable medium, the aggregate volume impact information;

importing the aggregate human capital resource information, the aggregate level of automation information, and the aggregate volume impact information into a system performance database;

generating from data in the system performance database a human capital resource report, an automation report, a process fragmentation report, and an impact of changing business volume report; and

updating the issue and resolution log based on an analysis of the human capital resource, automation, process fragmentation, and impact of changing business volume reports.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer-assisted diagnostic system of claim 20, wherein the step of analyzing, the process and technology performance information with respect to the one or more assessment issues further includes:

identifying business processes and business activities associated with the one or more assessment issues;

storing, on a computer readable medium, the identified business processes and business activities;

assessing for each identified process a current state and a desired state implementing straight through processing; and

assigning a straight through processing impact score and a gap score to each identified process.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer-assisted diagnostic system of claim 15, wherein the step of capturing information regarding the ability of at least one system external to the system to apply straight through processing to securities transactions further includes:

identifying business partner systems and vendor systems whose implementation of straight through processing will impact the business processes and business activities of the system; and

assessing the magnitude of the impact on the system of the readiness of the business partner systems and the vendor systems for implementing straight through processing.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer-assisted diagnostic system of claim 15, wherein the step of formulating at least one recommendation for improving process and technology performance for the system further comprises:

identifying technology applications associated with the one or more business processes in the system, wherein each business process includes at least one business activity; and

assessing the technology applications against a plurality of functional and technical criteria.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer-assisted diagnostic system of claim 15, wherein the step of formulating at least one recommendation for improving process and technology performance for the system further comprises:

assessing the ability of the information technology infrastructure of the securities processing system to implement straight through processing in the system; and

identifying technology applications or information technology infrastructure solutions of the industry-wide system, vendor systems, and business partner systems that may be used to implement straight through processing in the system;

storing, on a computer readable medium, the identified technology applications or information technology infrastructure solutions.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer-assisted diagnostic system of claim 15, herein the step of formulating at least one recommendation for improving process and technology performance for the system further comprises:

identifying current information technology infrastructure initiatives that may impact the ability of the system to implement straight through processing.

26. (Original) The computer-assisted diagnostic system of claim 15, wherein the step of prioritizing the at least one recommendation further includes:

identifying potential process and technology improvement opportunities;  
identifying the business processes affected by the potential process and technology improvement opportunities; and

assigning a priority to each potential process and technology improvement opportunity, where the priority of each potential process and technology improvement opportunity is influenced by straight through processing impact scores assigned to the business processes affected by the potential process and technology improvement opportunities.

27. (Previously Presented) The computer-assisted diagnostic system of claim 26, wherein the step of prioritizing the at least one recommendation further includes:

grouping the potential process and technology improvement recommendations into one or more projects;

creating a definition for each project, wherein the project definition includes project scope, project approach, project deliverables, project timing, and project resourcing; and

identifying any interdependencies between projects;

storing, on a computer readable medium, the identified interdependencies between projects.

28. (Original) The computer-assisted diagnostic system of claim 27, wherein the step of prioritizing the at least one recommendation further includes:

developing a business case for each project;  
estimating the costs of each project; and  
analyzing the costs of each project with respect to the potential benefits of the project.